

PRO

Be thou my aid, my tuneful song inspire,
And kindle, with thy own productive fire. *Dryden.*
If the productive fat of the marl be spent, it is not capable
of being mended with new. *Mortimer.*
Numbers of Scots are glad to exchange their barren hills
for our fruitful vales so productive of that grain. *Swift.*
Hymen's flames like stars unite,
And burn for ever one;
Chaste as cold Cynthia's virgin light,
Productive as the sun. *Pope.*
Plutarch, in his life of Theseus, says, that that age was
productive of men of prodigious stature. *Brycme.*
PRO'EM. *n. f.* [*προοίμιον*; *proemium*, Lat. *proeme*, old Fr.]
Preface; introduction.
So glaz'd the tempter, and his *proem* tun'd. *Milton.*
Thus much may serve by way of *proem*.
Proceed we therefore to our poem. *Swift's Miscel.*
Justinian has, in the *proem* to the digests, only prefixed
the term of five years for studying the laws. *Ayliffe.*
PROFANA'TION. *n. f.* [*profanation*, Fr. from *profane*, Lat.]
1. The act of violating any thing sacred.
He knew how bold men are to take even from God him-
self; how hardly that house would be kept from impious *pro-*
fanation he knew. *Hooker, b. v. f. 12.*
What I am and what I would, are to your ears, divinity;
to any others, *profanation*. *Shakespeare, Twelfth Night.*
'Twere *profanation* of our joys,
To tell the laity our love. *Donne.*
All *profanation* and invasion of things sacred, is an offence
against the eternal law of nature. *South.*
Others think I ought not to have translated Chaucer: they
suppose a veneration due to his old language, and that it is little
less than *profanation* and sacrilege to alter it. *Dryden.*
2. Irreverence to holy things or persons.
Great men may jest with saints, 'tis wit in them;
But, in the less, foul *profanation*. *Shakespeare.*
PROFANE. *adj.* [*profane*, Fr. from *profanus*, Lat.]
1. Irreverent to sacred names or things.
Profane fellow!
Wert thou the son of Jupiter, and no more
But what thou art besides, thou wert too base
To be his groom. *Shakespeare, Cymbeline.*
These have caused the weak to stumble, and the *profane* to
blasphemy, offending the one, and hardening the other. *South.*
2. Not sacred; secular.
The universality of the deluge is attested by *profane* history;
for the fame of it is gone through the earth, and there are
records or traditions concerning it in all the parts of this and
the new-found world. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Polluted; not pure.
Nothing is *profane* that serveth to holy things. *Raleigh.*
4. Not purified by holy rites.
Far hence be souls *profane*,
The Sibil cry'd, and from the grove abstain. *Dryden.*
To PROFANE. *v. a.* [*profane*, Lat. *profanare*, Fr.]
1. To violate; to pollute.
He then, that is not furnish'd in this sort,
Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight,
Profaning this most honourable order. *Shakespeare.*
Foretasted fruit
Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first
Made common and unhallow'd. *Milton.*
Pity the temple *profaned* of ungodly men. *2 Mac. viii. 2.*
How far have we
Profan'd thy heav'nly gift of poetry?
Made prostitute and profligate the muse,
Debas'd. *Dryden.*
2. To put to wrong use.
I feel me much to blame.
So idly to *profane* the precious time. *Shakespeare.*
PROFANELY. *adv.* [from *profane*.] With irreverence to sacred
names or things.
I will hold my tongue no more, as touching their wicked-
ness, which they *profanely* commit. *2 Esdr. xv. 8.*
Let none of things serious, much less of divine,
When belly and head's full, *profanely* dispute. *B. Johnf.*
That proud scholar, intending to erect altars to Virgil,
speaks of Homer too *profanely*. *Brycme's Notes on the Odyssey.*
PROFANER. *n. f.* [from *profane*.] Polluter; violator.
The argument which our Saviour useth against *profaners*
of the temple, he taketh from the use wherunto it was with
solemnity consecrated. *Hooker, b. v. f. 12.*
Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbour stained steel. *Shakespeare.*
There are a lighter ludicrous sort of *profaners*, who use the
scripture to furnish out their jests. *Gos. of the Tongue.*
PROFANENESS. *n. f.* [from *profane*.] Irreverence of what is
sacred.
Apollo, pardon
My great *profaneness* 'gainst thy oracle!
You can banish from thence scurrility and *profaneness*, and
restrain the licentious insolence of poets and their actors. *Dry-*

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Edicts against immorality and *profaneness*, laws against
oaths and execrations, we trample upon. *Attorney.*
PROFECTION. *n. f.* [*profectio*, Lat.] Advance; progression.
This, with *profecion* of the horoscope unto the seventh
house or opposite signs, every seventh year oppelleth living
natures. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
To PROFESS. *v. a.* [*professer*, Fr. from *professus*, Lat.]
1. To declare himself in strong terms of any opinion or passion.
Would you have me speak after my custom,
As being a *profess'd* tyrant to their sex. *Shakespeare.*
Pretending first
Wife to fly pain, *professing* next the spy. *Milton.*
A servant to thy sex, a slave to thee,
A foe *profess'd* to barren chastity. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*
2. To make a show of any sentiments by loud declaration.
Love well your father;
To your *professing* bosoms I commit him. *Shakespeare.*
3. To declare publicly one's skill in any art or science, so as
to invite employment.
What, master, read you? first resolve me that,
—I read that I *profess* the art of love. *Shakespeare.*
Without eyes thou shalt want light; *profess* not the know-
ledge therefore that thou hast not. *Lucius iii. 25.*
To PROFESS. *v. n.*
1. To declare openly.
The day almost itself *professes* yours,
And little is to do. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
They *profess*, that they know God, but in works they
deny him. *Tit. l. 16.*
Profess unto the Lord, that I am come unto the country,
which the Lord sware unto our fathers. *Deut. xxvi. 3.*
2. To declare friendship. Not in use.
As he does conceive,
He is dishonour'd by a man, which ever
Profess'd to him; why, his revenges must
In that be made more bitter. *Shakespeare.*
PROFESS'DLY. *adv.* [from *profess'd*.] According to open ac-
claration made by himself.
I could not grant too much to men, that being *profess'dly*
my subjects, pretended religious strictness. *King Charles.*
Virgil, whom he *profess'dly* imitated, has surpassed him
among the Romans. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*
England I travelled over, *profess'dly* leaching all places I
pass'd along. *Woodward.*
PROFESSION. *n. f.* [*profession*, Fr. from *professi*.]
1. Calling; vocation; known employment.
I must tell you,
You tender more your person's honour, than
Your high *profession* spiritual. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*
If we confound arts with the abuse of them, we shall con-
demn all honest trades; for there are that deceive in all *pro-*
fessions, and bury in forgetfulness all knowledge. *Raleigh.*
Some of our *profession* keep wounds tented. *Wilmot.*
No other one race, not the sons of any one other *profe-*
sion, nor perhaps altogether, are so much scattered amongst
all *professions*, as the sons of clergymen. *Sprat's Sermon.*
This is a practice, in which multitudes, besides those
of the learned *professions*, may be engaged. *Hart.*
2. Declaration.
A naked *profession* may have credit, where no other evi-
dence can be given. *Glanvill's Scph.*
Most profligately false, with the strongest *professions* of su-
periority. *Swift.*
3. The act of declaring one's self of any party or opinion.
For by oil in their lamps, and the first lighting of them,
which was common to them both, is meant that solemn *pro-*
fession of faith and repentance, which all christians make in
baptism. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
When christianity came to be taken up, for the sake of
those civil encouragements which attended their *profession*, the
complaint was applicable to christians. *Swift.*
PROFESSIONAL. *adj.* [from *profession*.] Relating to a particular
calling or profession.
Professional, as well as national, reflections are to be
avoided. *Clarissa.*
PROFESSOR. *n. f.* [*professor*, Fr. from *professi*.]
1. One who declares himself of any opinion or party.
When the holiness of the *professors* of religion is decayed
you may doubt the springing up of a new sect. *Bacon's Essays.*
2. One who publicly practices or teaches an art.
Professors in most sciences, are generally the worst qualified
to explain their meanings to those who are not of their
tribes. *Swift.*
3. One who is visibly religious.
Ordinary illiterate people, who were *professors*, that shew'd
a concern for religion, seem'd much conversant in St. Paul's
Epistles. *Lake.*
PROFESSORSHIP. *n. f.* [from *professor*.] The station or office
of a public teacher.
Dr. Prideaux succeeded him in the *professorship*, being then
elected bishop of Worcester, Sanderson succeeded him in the
regius *professorship*. *Walton.*
To PROFFER.

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To PROFFER. *v. a.* [*profero*, Lat. *proferer*, Fr.]
1. To propose; to offer.
To them that covet such eye-glutting gain,
Proffer thy gifts, and fitter servants entertain. *Fairy Queen.*
None, among the choice and prime
Of those heav'n-warring champions, could be found
So hardy as to *proffer*, or accept
Alone, the dreadful voyage. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Does Cato send this answer back to Cæsar,
For all his generous cares and *proffer'd* friendship. *Addison.*
2. To attempt.
PROFFER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Offer made; something proposed to acceptance.
Basilus, content to take that, since he could have no more,
allow'd her reasons, and took her *proffer* thankfully. *Sidney.*
Proffers, not took, reap thanks for their reward. *Shakespeare.*
The king
Great *proffers* sends of pardon and of grace,
If they would yield, and quietness embrace. *Daniel.*
He made a *proffer* to lay down his commission of command
in the army. *Clarendon.*
But these, nor all the *proffers* you can make,
Are worth the heifer which I set to flake. *Dryden.*
2. Effay; attempt.
It is done with time, and by little and little, and with
many essays and *proffers*. *Bacon's Essays.*
PROFFERER. *n. f.* [from *proffer*.] He that offers.
Maids, in modesty, say no, to that
Which they would have the *profferer* construe ay. *Shakespeare.*
He who always refuses, taxes the *profferer* with indiscre-
tion, and declares his assistance needless. *Collier.*
PROFICIENCY. *n. f.* [from *proficis*, Lat.] Profit; advance.
PROFICIENCY. *n. f.* [from *proficis*, Lat.] Profit; advance.
It is applied to intellectual acquisition.
Persons of ripe years, who flock'd into the church during
the three first centuries, were obliged to pass through instruc-
tions, and give account of their *proficiency*. *Addison.*
Some reflecting with too much satisfaction on their own
proficiencies, or presuming on their election by God, persuade
themselves into a careless security. *Rogers's Sermons.*
PROFICIENT. *n. f.* [*proficiens*, Lat.] One who has made ad-
vances in any study or business.
I am so good a *proficient* in one quarter of an hour, that I
can drink with any tinker in his own language. *Shakespeare.*
I am dispos'd to receive further light in this matter, from
those whom it will be no disparagement for much greater *pro-*
ficients than I to learn. *Boyle.*
Young deathlings were, by practice, made
Proficients in their father's trade. *Swift's Miscel.*
PROFICUOUS. *adj.* [*proficuous*, Lat.] Advantageous; useful.
It is very *proficuous*, to take a good large dose. *Harvey.*
To future times
Proficuous, such a race of men produce,
As in the cause of virtue firm, may fix
Her throne inviolate. *Philips.*
PROFITE. *n. f.* [*profite*, Fr.] The side face; half face.
The painter will not take that side of the face, which has
some notorious blemish in it; but either draw it in *profile*, or
else shadow the more imperfect side. *Dryden.*
Till the end of the third century, I have not seen a Roman
emperor drawn with a full face: they always appear in *profile*,
which gives us the view of a head very majestic. *Addison.*
PROFIT. *n. f.* [*profit*, Fr.]
1. Gain; pecuniary advantage.
Thou must know,
'Tis not my *profit* that does lead mine honour. *Shakespeare.*
He thinks it highly just, that all rewards of trust, *profits*, or
dignity should be given only to those, whose principles direct
them to preserve the constitution. *Swift.*
2. Advantage; accession of good.
What *profit* is it for men now to live in heaviness, and
after death to look for punishment? *2 Esdr. vii. 47.*
Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what
profit is in them both? *Ecclef. xx. 30.*
Say not what *profit* is there of my service; and what good
things shall I have hereafter. *Ecclef. xi. 23.*
The king did not love the barren wars with Scotland,
though he made his *profit* of the noise of them. *Bacon.*
3. Improvement; advancement; proficiency.
To PROFIT. *v. a.* [*profiter*, Fr.]
1. To benefit; to advantage.
Whereto might the strength of their hands *profit* me. *Job.*
Let it *profit* thee to have heard,
By terrible example, the reward
Of disobedience. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*
2. To improve; to advance.
'Tis a great means of *profiting* yourself, to copy diligently
excellent pieces and beautiful designs. *Dryden.*
To PROFIT. *v. n.*
1. To gain advantage.
The Romans, though possess'd of their ports, did not *profit*
much by trade. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

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2. To make improvement.
Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them;
that thy *profiting* may appear to all. *1 Tim. iv. 15.*
She has *profited* so well already by your counsel, that she
can say her lesson. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
3. To be of use or advantage.
Oft times nothing *pro-fits* more,
Than self-esteem ground'd on just and right. *Milton.*
What *profited* thy thoughts, and toils, and cares,
In vigour more confirm'd, and riper years? *Prior.*
PROFITABLE. *adj.* [*profitable*, Fr. from *profit*.]
1. Gainful; lucrative.
A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man;
Is not so estimable or *profitable*,
As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. *Shakespeare.*
The planting of hop-yards, sowing of wheat and rape-
seed, are found very *profitable* for the planters, in places apt
for them, and consequently *profitable* for the kingdom. *Bacon.*
2. Useful; advantageous.
To wail friends lost
Is not by much so wholesome, *profitable*,
As to rejoice at friends but newly found. *Shakespeare.*
Then Judas, thinking indeed that they would be *profitable*
in many things, granted them peace. *2 Mac. xii.*
What was so *profitable* to the empire, became fatal to the
emperor. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
PROFITABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *profitable*.]
1. Gainfulness.
2. Usefulness; advantageousness.
We will now briefly take notice of the *profitableness* of
plants for physick and food. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*
What shall be the just portion of those, whom neither the
consecration or kindness, nor wounds and sufferings of the
son of God could persuade, nor yet the excellency, easiness
and *profitableness* of his commands invite? *Calamy's Sermons.*
PROFITABLY. *adv.* [from *profitable*.]
1. Gainfully.
2. Advantageously; usefully.
You have had many opportunities to settle this reflection,
and have *profitably* employed them. *Wake.*
PROFITLESS. *adj.* [from *profit*.] Void of gain or advantage.
We must not think the Turk is so unskilful,
To leave that latest, which concerns him first;
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain, *Shakespeare.*
To wake and wage a danger *profitless*.
PROFLIGATE. *adj.* [*profligatus*, Lat.] Abandoned; lost
to virtue and decency; shameless.
Time sensibly all things impairs;
Our fathers have been worse than theirs,
And we than ours; next age will see
A race more *profligate* than we,
With all the pains we take, have skill enough to be. *Resg.*
How far have we
Prophan'd thy heav'nly gift of poetry?
Made prostitute and *profligate* the muse,
Debas'd to each obscene and impious use,
Whose harmony was first ordain'd above
For tongues of angels, and for hymns of love. *Dryden.*
Though Phalaris his brazen bull were there,
And he would dictate what he'd have you swear,
Be not so *profligate*, but rather chuse
To guard your honour, and your life to lose. *Dryden.*
Melancholy objects and subjects will, at times, impress
the most *profligate* spirits. *Clarissa.*
PROFLIGATE. *n. f.* An abandoned shameless wretch.
It is pleasant to see a notorious *profligate* seized with a con-
cern for his religion, and converting his spleen into zeal. *Add.*
I have heard a *profligate* offer much stronger arguments
against paying his debts, than ever he was known to do against
christianity; because he happened to be closer pressed by the
bailiff than the parson. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
How could such a *profligate* as Antony, or a boy of
eighteen, like Octavius, ever dare to dream of giving the
law to such an empire and people. *Swift.*
To PROFLIGATE. *v. a.* [*profligo*, Lat.] To drive away. A
word borrowed from the Latin without alteration of the sense,
but not used.
Lavatories, to wash the temples, hands, wrists, and ju-
gulars, do potentially *profligate* and keep off the venom. *Harris.*
PROFLIGATELY. *adv.* [from *profligate*.] Shamelessly.
Most *profligately* false, with the strongest professions of
sincerity. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
PROFLIGATENESS. *n. f.* [from *profligate*.] The quality of
being profligate.
PROFLUENCE. *n. f.* [from *profuens*.] Progress; course.
In the *profuence* or proceedings of their fortunes, there was
much difference between them. *Wotton.*
PROFLUENT. *adj.* [from *profuens*, Lat.] Flowing forward.
Teach all nations what of him they learn'd,
And his salvation; them who shall believe
Baptizing in the *profuent* stream, the sign
Of washing them from guilt of sin. *Milton.*
PROFOUND.